per the established international practices. Under this Exchange, it is proposed to also have a trading, floor at Kualalumpur, Malaysia. To facilitate simultaneous trading, fully electronic Online Telecommunication links are to be established between the two centres. Additionally, there would be a Clearing House mechanism to act as a guarantor for all the transactions that are made through the proposed exchange. A Steering Committee has also been set up to work out and finalise the details.

(d) When commissioned, the International Pepper Futures Exchange is expected to impart a degree of stability to the volatile price behaviour for the Commodity, facilitate price discovery, and provide a hedging mechanism that will, to an extent, insure buyers and sellers against risks of price fluctuations.

National Minimum Wages

*2. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on its proposal for national minimum wage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The issue relating to formulation of a National Minimum Wage has been considered in various fora in the past. The National Commission on Labour (1969) was of the view that such a wage in the sense of a uniform minimum monetary remuneration for the country as a whole is neither feasible nor desirable. This subject was also considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November, 1985. The ILC expressed the view that "till such time a National Wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. The minimum wages should be revised at regular periodicity and should be linked with rise in cost of living." Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages in July, 1987 to all the State Governments and Union Territory administrations. The State Governments/ U.T. Administrations were also requested to provide for variable Dearness Allowance linked to consumer price index, as a part of minimum wages, to be revised every six months.

The matter has also since been considered in the ILC meeting held on 23rd and 24th of November, 1995. The ILC has wanted further investigation, in the present circumstances, of the scope for introduction of uniform minimum wages in the country.

Raising of resources by CIL

*3. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has a programme to raise its resources;

(b) if so, the target set by Coal India Limited in this regard;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has made achievements in various fields during 1994-95;

(d) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to distribution of coal; and

(e) the aims and objectives for raising the resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble member is referring to raising of financial resources for plan investments. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Total plan outlay for Coal India Limited for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 2260 crores. The financing pattern of the plan,